

In the Specification

On page 8, paragraph 3, starting at line 13, please amend as follows:

A super absorbent polymer can be incorporated as a middle layer 25 of the pad. This super absorbent polymer is highly absorbent and available in a variety of particle sizes. The various particle sizes and their absorbent characteristics are described in the manufacturer's specifications enclosed herein. ~~[[known generically as a silica aerogel or hydrated silica, includes such compositions as silicon dioxide, silicon carbide, elemental silicon and various sodium silicate salts.]]~~ Super absorbent polymer can be purchased from manufacturers such as GELOCK in Dayton, Ohio which sells super absorbent polymer alone or with baking soda included in a desired ratio. ~~[[The preferred]]~~ Another composition contains amorphous silicon dioxide, known generically as a silica aerogel or hydrated silica, includes such compositions as silicon dioxide, silicon carbide, elemental silicon and various sodium silicate salts. ~~[[These compounds are highly absorbent and available in a variety of particle sizes. The various particle sizes and their absorption characteristics are described in the manufacturer's specifications enclosed herein. They can be readily formed into silica gels.]]~~ Although generally considered nontoxic, silica gels are so absorbent and capable of binding tightly to wet surfaces that an inherent risk exists upon accidental ingestion. Use of the silica gels alone as a desiccant or super absorbent

On page 10, paragraph 2, starting at line 9, please amend as follows:

For entrapping coarse and fine particles, a variety of inert, non-absorbing high-loft non-wovens exists which can be used [[as the wadding and]] to retain the super absorbing polymer water absorbing material. Examples of this high-loft non-woven include polyester, nylon, polypropylene and the like and these can be manufactured in a variety of thicknesses and densities as may be desired by both user or needed for the use. The denier for these materials can range from thick with relatively sparse thread count to thin with very high thread count. ~~[[These non-woven materials can be manufactured with a tacky material applied so as to allow cross-linking and easy integration of the absorbent material, they]]~~ They can be sprayed with a binding agent so as to join the fibers at the points of junction, or they can be needle punched to integrate the fibers. Union Wadding Inc. in Pawtucket, Rhode Island and Hollinee Filtration (now Ahlstrom Inc.) in Texas, as well as many other non-woven suppliers supply non-wovens in all types of lengths, widths, etc. with or without binding agents or tacky materials applied. These non-woven materials can be manufactured with a tacky material applied so as to allow easy integration of the absorbent polymer and/or silica absorbent material.

On Page 15, please amend this page as follows:

capped with a porous top layer 41 of either high loft non-woven or the non-woven described in U.S. 4,774,907 which allows liquids to pass through. Liquids that pass through the top layer 41 are absorbed by the super absorbent polymer 44, and any excess liquids are prevented from pillage by the impervious bottom layer 42.

Another household use includes lining the bottoms of garbage pails, waste pails, commercial disposal pails, and other receptacles in order to provide protection from dripping waste and particles. Pads for this use may consist of similar construction as above or can be of a simpler structure, and may consist of similar construction as previously described in U.S. 4,774,907 to Yananton ~~[[or can be of a simpler structure]]~~, omitting the particles catching high-loft non-woven layer, replacing it with a standard rip-proof spun bond or spun laced non-woven polypropylene, nylon or polyester sheet or any other similarly performing nonwoven. Silica gel, baking soda, super absorbent polymers, odor-counteractive agents, etc. can be added to the middle layer. The wood pulp fibers of the middle layer also promote evaporation to negate odors.

In another embodiment, as shown in Figure 5, a pad can be developed as previously described wherein the bottom layer is the same as the non-woven top layer, i.e. there is no impervious bottom layer. These two non-woven layers 51 and 52 are attached to form kind of a pouch 50. This pouch preferably contains a middle layer 53. Middle layer 53 can include a super

absorbent polymer or backing soda particles 54 or both. This pouch 50 can be used in any environment, most notably a refrigerator, to reduce odor and humidity.

The preceding examples and uses are provided for descriptive purposes solely and are not meant to limit the embodiments of the invention. Other configurations of the [[portable display case]] absorbent pad for entrapping small and coarse particles, retaining liquids and eliminating odors will become apparent to those of ordinary skill in the art.